

BUILDING ACTIVITY IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

MIDDLETOWN.

Changes in Plans For New Gymnasium—Bids Were Too High.

Plans are being refigured for the addition to the gymnasium of Wesleyan University on Willis avenue. The bids which were received were in excess of the funds available and the plans were altered to reduce the cost.

House on Highland Avenue.

Myhre Bros. have the contract and have started work on a new house on Highland avenue for Mrs. L. Hult. It will be of frame construction and will contain six rooms, with modern conveniences. Wells & Wilcox have the contract for the carpenter work.

Alterations to Church.

Work has been started on the alterations to the chapel of the First Methodist Church on Church street. C. O. Stone & Son, Inc., have the carpenter work and Myhre Bros. the mason work.

Building Ready for Plastering.

The new chapter house being erected at the corner of High and Church streets for the Beta Theta Pi Society at Wesleyan University, is now ready for plastering. C. O. Stone & Son, Inc., are the carpenter contractors. Myhre Bros. are the mason contractors. Har & Kelley have the plumbing and heating and M. J. Hyland did the roofing.

John W. O'Brien is repairing the block on Main street occupied by the Barton Clothing Co., which was recently damaged by fire.

Comfort Stations At Playgrounds

Contractors Figuring Plans For Concrete Buildings—Progress on New Blocks and Dwellings About the Town.

Contractors are figuring bids for the construction of two comfort stations at the Lake street playgrounds, one for boys and the other for girls. The stations are to be built of concrete blocks and will be eight by ten feet in size. They will be located at opposite sides of the grounds.

The stations are to be equipped with toilets, bubble fountains and bowls and will prove a valuable addition to the equipment of the grounds.

Frame Raised.

The frame for the new Park residence, in process of construction by the Peck-McWilliams company at the corner of Main and Church streets, was raised on Wednesday. Work has been pushed rapidly along since the start.

Excavations Started.

The work of excavating for the foundations for the new school building in connection with the convent of the Holy Family at Baltic, has been started by the Fenton-Charnley Co.

Bushnell Cottage Contract.

The contract for the construction of the new eight room cottage house for Charles P. Bushnell on the Canterbury turnpike, was awarded this week to Contractor George Allen of this city. Work on the excavation for the cellar has already been started. Work on the interior of the building will be soon started.

Foundations Underway.

Foundations are being constructed for the new building of the Kosciuszko-Polish society on North Main street. Nudged was encountered in the excavating and blasting is still going on. This has delayed the building considerably.

Front Wall Nearly Done.

The front wall of the three story William T. Ward building on Market street at the junction of Main, is practically finished. The two upper stories, there are four large windows in each story and the front is finished in buff brick.

New Bungalow.

The new bungalow for William Pitcher and several others is now nearly completed. The building which is of one story and of wood is located near the Preston City pond and the plans were designed by W. H. Stebbins.

Roofing New House.

This week the work of roofing in the

new house on North Main street which is being built by C. H. Burton was started and will be soon completed. The house is of concrete blocks and two stories in height. Work on the interior of the building will be soon started.

Decided Falling Off In Value of Contracts Awarded.

Real estate transactions for the week in the towns reported by The Commercial Record numbered 150, with mortgage loans of \$384,067, against 318 sales and mortgage loans of \$1,086,619 for the corresponding week of 1912.

But two petitions in bankruptcy, with assets of \$4,461 and liabilities of \$13,358, are reported. Last year in the corresponding week four petitions were filed, with assets of \$9,755 and liabilities of \$23,427.

The four incorporations for the week have authorized capital stock of \$178,000, which is about the same as a year ago.

Building permits have been issued in the cities of New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Stamford for a total of \$229,330. For the same week last year 113 permits for buildings costing \$1,250,210 were issued, the greater part of which was for large structures in Hartford.

Important contracts awarded during the week include a brick schoolhouse in Hamden, business block in Bridgeport, new residences in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New

Britain and Stamford, bank building in New Canaan, memorial chapel costing \$20,000 in Meriden, and a large number of cheaper one, two and three-family houses.

Plans for several projects have been announced during the week, among them being new schoolhouses in Waterbury and Bloomfield, theatre in Bristol, storehouse in New Haven, residence in Saugatuck costing \$60,000, residence, garage and stable at Roxbury costing \$150,000, several fine houses in New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport, and a number of tenement blocks, both brick and frame, one, two and three-family houses, etc., in almost all the cities reported in The Record.

Norwich had three sales last week to eight a year ago with mortgage loans for the respective weeks of \$20,700 and \$23,400.

New London had eighteen last week and two a year ago with the mortgage loans amounting to \$31,950 and \$18,020.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.

Gustav Schreiber has started the carpenter work for the new four-family house to be erected at 36-38 Birch street under William Rubnow. Patrick Gorman has the mason work and Thomas M. Trotter the plumbing.

WATERFORD.

Contractor Burtus Dunbar with a gang of men has started a new house for Clarence Gallup on Mallory hill.

STATE INDUSTRIES.

Structures Which Connecticut Concerns Are Planning and Building.

The New Haven Gas Light company has awarded a \$250,000 contract for the construction of a coal gas manufacturing plant and will give up the manufacture of gas from petroleum because of the high cost of the latter. The new structure will be situated on Chapel street and built of steel and brick and will be 105 feet in length, 75 feet wide and 70 feet high. The Excelsior Hardware company of Stamford will add to its plant there a concrete building 60x75 feet and one story high. The new buildings of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing company in that city are to cost about \$300,000 and to include a brass foundry, pattern shop, core shop and factory building. In Norwalk the new shirt factory of Cluett, Peabody & Company is to be 90x300 feet and six stories high, a brick building of all construction.

Other industrial building about Connecticut includes a larger number of new projects in Torrington and in other places. The Progressive Manufacturing company there is about to add a two story brick factory 30x125 feet. The Union Hardware company is building an addition to its office building and a fireproof vault, the new structure to be 72x72 feet and 40x65 feet. The Turner & Seymour Manufacturing company is adding a two story brick factory building, the new structure to be 72x72 feet. Three stories is the height of

the new factory building of the Standard company and the building will be of brick and 42x144 feet in size. At Naugatuck the Ball Bearing Shade Roller company will erect a new building of frame construction, one story high and 41x129 feet. The United States Rubber company will build a two story brick and steel addition to its reclaiming plant at a cost of \$75,000.

In Bristol, the Bristol Manufacturing company will build a brick addition 50x90 feet in size and two stories high to its knitting mill. In Waterbury, the Berkebeck & Rowland Manufacturing company is about to add extensively to its Waterville plant. A new brick, steel and concrete casting shop is to be built, 48x122 feet in size, with an ell 16x33 feet, and an addition to the dip room building of the same construction, 48x122 feet. Each will be one story high.

The Waterbury Rolling Mills company is building a new cold shed of iron frame and cement walls at its Waterville road plant, 20x65 feet. The new plant will be a three story brick building, the new machine shop of the E. J. Manville Machine company and the new factory of the Waterbury Soda company are about ready for occupancy.

The recently incorporated Hartford Drop Forge company is to build a large and modern plant in that city, a one story building of steel and corrugated iron, 56x40 feet. The Hartford Special Machinery company is about to construct a large addition and the Skag Manufacturing company, makers of soap, will add a two story brick and concrete structure 40 feet square to its plant. In Bridgeport, the Frisbee Pie company, a wholesale concern, is about to build a three story brick building, 50x100 feet in size. The Warner Brothers Manufacturing company is adding still another structure to its plant, a two story brick building, 60x120 feet. The Belknap Manufacturing company has purchased property on Holland street as a site for a large factory and plans to build a three story brick building 50x220 feet in size.

BUILDING OPERATIONS IN NEW ENGLAND.

The statistics of Building Operations in New England, as compiled by The F. W. Dodge Company, follow:

Contracts to June 11, 1912..	\$75,510,000
Contracts to June 11, 1912..	88,503,000
Contracts to June 11, 1911..	78,844,000
Contracts to June 11, 1910..	72,917,000
Contracts to June 11, 1909..	72,951,000
Contracts to June 11, 1908..	38,746,000
Contracts to June 11, 1907..	51,521,000
Contracts to June 11, 1906..	50,032,000
Contracts to June 11, 1905..	46,289,000
Contracts to June 11, 1904..	39,628,000
Contracts to June 11, 1903..	59,888,000
Contracts to June 11, 1902..	56,884,000
Contracts to June 11, 1901..	56,834,000

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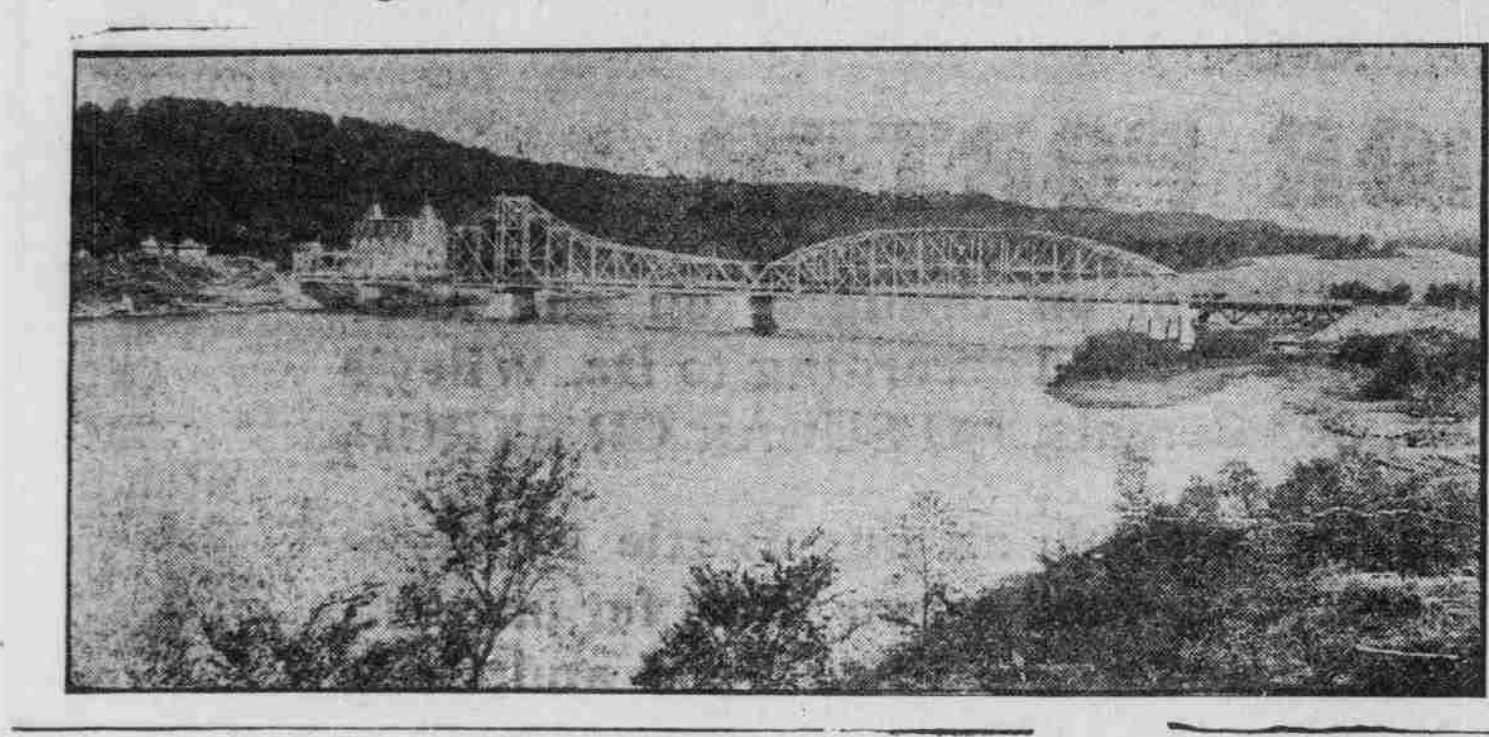
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New Drawbridge Over Connecticut River Between East Haddam and Haddam



NEW EAST HADDAM-HADDAM BRIDGE

Celebration Over Its Opening Recalls Some of the Early History of That Section of the State.

This ancient town of East Haddam, which has 242 years of settlement behind it, looked its holiday best Saturday for the dedication of its new \$225,000 highway bridge spanning the Connecticut, and East Haddam's best was very good indeed. The weather was perfect. Flugs were flying, bands were playing, and there were thousands of visitors thronging the narrow and somewhat crooked streets. The honk of horns and the odor of gasoline filled the air, and if one were to judge from the number of automobiles, it would be that most of the visitors came by that means. Over 6,000 people were present.

The Line of Parade.

The line of parade was from the railroad station, across the bridge to the upper landing, countermarch, stop at Nathan Hale memorial park for brief exercises, then return to the plaza and break ranks.

Formal Speech Making.

At 3 o'clock the speech making of the day began, from the veranda of River Side Inn. Seats were arranged there for guests and Rollin U. Taylor of Haddam was presiding officer. Governor Baldwin was the first speaker and his address was brief. Immediately after his conclusion he left for Saybrook Junction in an automobile to take the 4:15 express for New Haven.

Senator Bulkeley, whose remarks were impromptu, assured the assemblage of the great pleasure which it afforded him to revisit the town of his birth and rejoice with its people in the realization of the wish which has been nearest and dearest to their hearts for many years—a bridge across the Connecticut. Ex-Governor Waller was heard in a delightful address.

The Haddams.

The history of the Haddams has been closely identified with the earliest of the state, and no towns have a better record in the Revolution or the Civil War, than these two small towns now celebrating their release from bondage. The first settlement was made in Haddam in 1637. The lands, together with those in East Haddam, were long known as the lands at Thirty-Mile Island, now known as Haddam Island, but originally called Thirty-Mile Island, from the supposition that it was thirty miles from the mouth of the Connecticut. This island, which is about opposite the Rock Landing House, contains a little more than three hundred acres. For years it was a resort of the Indians, and in the early 1800 one of the most famous shad-fishing places on the river. Its size has been materially increased by the construction of a pier about ninety rods north of it in 1793, used for fishing. The sand washed down by the river has accumulated between the pier and the island; and today they are nearly one.

Buying the Land.

In 1660, the Colonial Court appointed Matthew Alyn and Samuel Willys a committee to buy the lands from the Indians. For some reason the lands were not bought until 1672, when for a consideration of thirty coats, worth at the most a bare \$100, four Indian kings, Sachusquavema, Keawaytabue, Turramugus, and Nabahuet, and two Indian queens, Sachumemo-pamessame and Taw-yahsie, transferred to the Connecticut Colony of Hartford Colony as it was then known, all the lands from the "strait" just above Maromauk, for six miles on either side of the river, down to the lower side of Pattaquik, now Chester Meadow. The Indians or bands of Chester River, excepting for their own use Thirty-Mile Island, forty acres at Pattaquik and Twenty-Mile Island, now a bare 100 acres, off East Haddam, and a tract running up Salmon River cove, Twenty-Mile Island and the tract on Salmon River had been laid out for ten years as property of Captain John Cullick, for some time secretary of the Connecticut Colony, and about this time he built a house on it.

The First Proprietors.

Twenty-eight young men, from

in 1665 advised Thirty-Mile Island to accept But as the matter remained unsettled an order was issued the following year that it should be thus divided, one half to Haddam and one half to Saybrook and the names of Brainerd, Spencer, Arnold, Cone, Shaller, Clarke, Vantres, Bates and Webb are still common in the towns.

Troubles With the Indians.

For years the Indians resided in town, many of the names still being indicative of their haunts. At first they were somewhat troublesome and for forty-five years from the time of settlement people carried arms to the places of public worship. In 1701 guards were kept in three houses in East Haddam. From this probably originated much of the martial spirit that was instrumental in the forming of the various militia companies in the two towns, nearly every able bodied man or youth being enrolled. When it was time for worship, the people assembled in Haddam on the sound of a drum beat, and whether this custom was carried into East Haddam is not known. In spite of all the precautions taken, there are no records found of any serious depredations by the Indians, or of any clash between the whites and the Indians.

Trouble Over Boundaries.

The lands obtained interfered with the territory already confirmed to Middletown, and the Middlesex south bounds, some distance below the "Strait," were established as the line. Concerning the south line much difficulty arose between Haddam and Saybrook. Some time prior to 1682 the Legislature had granted to Saybrook, then including Haddam, the right to extend its bounds four miles northward. These four miles were covered by the deed which the people of Thirty-Mile Island held from the Indians. Saybrook, therefore, claimed the tract by virtue of the grant from the Legislature, and the Indians, claiming the tract by purchase from the Indians, which the Legislature had authorized, in May, 1682, a controversy was opened to examine the difficulties between the two plantations, Saybrook expressed a willingness to divide the contested land equally, a proposal which the

Separation of the Towns.

The lands in East Haddam belonged to Haddam Society until 1706, when it was constituted a district society, and named East Haddam. The inhabitants began to do town business by themselves in 1704, and a record of their proceedings. But as the legality of doing business in this manner was questioned, and as uneasiness prevailed among the societies of Haddam and East Haddam in 1710 entered into articles of agreement, and had them sanctioned by the Legislature, in which it was provided that the societies might do town business separately and elect each a representative to the General Assembly. The affairs were thus managed until May, 1734, when the town of Haddam was divided according to the division of the societies, and the names of the societies given to them as towns. In the act it was provided, however, that neither should send more than one representative to the Legislature at public cost, and this proviso remained until October, 1778, when Haddam, East Haddam, Chatham, and one or two other towns in the state were allowed to send two representatives.

The Time the Settlement.

The time the settlement in East Haddam began is not absolutely certain. It has been commonly supposed that it began at the place called Creek Row, about 1635, by the removal of the Bateses, Brainerds, Cone and Gateeses, from Haddam. From the colony records however, it is certain that Robert Champlaine, a dwelling-house in East Haddam, north of Creek Row, in 1674. If the Creek Row settlement was first, it must have been begun about 1670. About this time came Captain John Chapman from Saybrook, who had bought the lands laid out to Captain John Cullick. The first settler in Millington was Jonathan Beebe, from New London, who settled by the Long Pond about 1704. By 1740 the two towns were pretty fairly well settled.

The Moodus Noises.

Perhaps in no other manner is East Haddam better known than as the site of Moodus, or the Moodus Noises. The name is called it "Mack-moodus," or the place of noises, from the slight shocks of earthquake which had always been noticed there. To this, the early settlers attributed

the extraordinary pawpaws, which the Indians of that district practiced. An old Indian once told me, when asked the cause of the "Moodus" noises, that the cause was the Indian God is very angry because Englishmen's God has come here.

The noises have been more or less frequent ever since the English settlements began. They sound frequently like slow thunder, and again like an explosion, and not infrequently the earth is felt to tremble for some miles roundabout. Two of the most prominent of the shocks occurred on October 29, 1727, and on May 18, 1891. The noises occur most uniformly in a dull and heavy atmosphere. Various causes have been assigned for them, but that most generally accepted is that minerals exploding deep down in the earth's interior are the cause. The shifting of ledges of rock in the earth's interior are responsible.

Population of the Towns.

East Haddam and Haddam are peculiar in one respect, and that is that the zenith of their population was reached years ago, and that for some time the towns have been regarded as decadent by the United States census. The building of the bridge it is believed, will offset this, and result in another steady boom, as both towns contain excellent sites for manufacturing industries, as well as good farming land and quarries. The following table shows the population of the towns had come up and gone back—

1796, 1830, 1860, 1910.

East Haddam 1,973 2,664 3,058 2,422

Haddam 1,241 3,025 2,307 1,958

Haddam Half-shire Town.

Haddam and East Haddam were originally part of Hartford county, and when included in Middlesex county in May, 1785, Haddam was made a half-shire town along with Middletown, and the houses and barns were erected, and for some time the superior court used to sit alternately in Haddam and in Middletown. The present town hall, originally the courthouse, was erected in 1829 of Haddam granite, and is one of the finest examples of early stone architecture to be found in the state. The first jail was condemned in 1814, and another was erected in 1846 the present jail was erected, also of Haddam granite, but it has been materially added to. Much of the expense was met by the town of Haddam. Haddam is also the seat of the country home, and of the Brainerd Academy, now dismantled, but for years from two times of its erection in 1837, a noted educational institution in this state. The town also has the distinction of being one of the few in the state that is absolutely free of debt.

Haddam was also one of the first towns in the state to make bricks, the yard in the east end of the nineteenth century being located about a half-mile above what is now Higgins Landing, and so close to the banks of the Connecticut that the bricks were carried away in vessels. Shipbuilding at one time was also a prominent industry here, both towns. Another distinction accorded Haddam is that it is the only town in the state bisected by the Connecticut River.

Early Navigation.

Previous to the eighteenth century the nearest approach to steam navigation was made by John Stillman of Chester, one time of Haddam, who had a large saw with paddle wheels, the motive power being furnished by a horse. It is said of him that at one time he carried the mayor and aldermen to Hartford on an excursion by the boat. The boat was wrecked near Chester, and until within a very few years the ruins were visible on one of the sand bars. The first steamboat, excepting the Fulton, was the Enterprise, which began to run in 1819.

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